

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1500

March 3, 2005

Vice Admiral John G. Cotton 2000 Navy Pentagon Room 4E458 Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Admiral Cotton:

On behalf of the Department of Defense I offer greetings to the men and women of the United States Navy Reserve for a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since organizing on March 3, 1915, as the Naval Reserve, citizen-sailors have played a vital role in the defense of the nation.

Today Navy Reservists serve in every corner of the globe. Whether delivering humanitarian aid to tsunami ravaged shores or pursuing terrorists as an integral part of the Navy's forward presence, the citizen-sailor is an indispensable part of the nation's military response.

It is a proud tradition that you carry forward. I thank all United States Navy Reserve members for being an integral part of the Total Force.

Happy birthday!

Sincerely,

T. F. Hall

